

Murphy Named Acting Library Boss as Lamothe Heads for Weymouth

By PAULA MAXWELL

After 16 years in the Duxbury Free Library system, departing Director Joanne Lamothe feels sentimental about the town where she has raised her young family, built a career and helped mold a state of the art library facility.

Great job opportunities however don't come along every day and though she will still live in Duxbury, Lamothe has accepted the challenge of heading the city of Weymouth's library system, effective October 1.

On Monday night, local library trustees named Asst. Director David Murphy as Acting Director. The job has been advertised and trustees are hopeful to name a full time replacement by January 1. Murphy's hat will be in the ring for consideration as the permanent director he said.

Library Trustee Chairman Corrinne Woodworth praised Lamothe's tenure as director here noting, "She provided wonderful leadership." Citing the building expansion project and directing library technology

into the 21st century among her many achievements, Woodworth said the director will be missed.

Lamothe helped steer Duxbury voters through the maze of consensus building necessary to realize approval of a \$6.3 million library project completed in 1997 to replace the former town library given to the town in 1909 by Georgianna Wright.

The conversion of the upper Alden school building as a new library required \$3 million in

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voter approved funds in 1995 and the balance came from grants and fundraising. Duxbury received the state's largest community library construction grant at the time, \$2.1 million. Since then, the library has become a virtual community center offering a wide variety of services and innovative programs as well as the cherished Bumpus gallery which was relocated from the old library.

Lamothe will now parlay that building project experience to help Weymouth expand its library system, a task she said she sees as a challenge she is ready to tackle.

The 43-year old mother of three was hired by Mayor David Madden following her unanimous approval by the Weymouth city council Aug 21 to succeed retiring Library Director Judith Platt.

The Mill Pond Lane resident who with her husband, Joe, are parents of three children ages 11, 9 and 20 months, was chosen from over a dozen applicants for the \$69,000 a year job. She will oversee a main library and three branches serving 54,000 residents. She earned \$56,000 as Duxbury director.



Lamothe



Murphy

in the town for the library due to the staff, programs and facilities. We would like to continue that positive feeling," he said.

Duxbury's 40,000 square

"I don't think I could rubber stamp what we've done here in Duxbury," she said. "Weymouth is a different community with different needs. I'll be doing a lot of observing and assessment before I make recommendations."

Lamothe has a bachelor's degree in communications from Bridgewater State and a masters in library science from URI. She joined the Duxbury Free Library in 1984 working part time 20 hours a week in technical services. Five years ago she was appointed Acting Library Director and a year later became Director.

Murphy served as acting director once before when Lamothe left for maternity leave. A native of Martha's Vineyard, he moved to town seven years ago and was appointed Assistant Director of the library four years ago.

He and his wife, the former Gail Southard of Duxbury, live on Washington Street and have a six year old son who is a first grader at Chandler School.

Murphy has an undergraduate degree in management from U. Mass.- Boston and a masters degree in library science from Simmons College.

He began his library career in the 80's working in the reference departments at MIT's engineering library and later at the Cambridge public library.

"There is a lot of enthusiasm

root library with a staff of 25 people, contains over 100,000 items in its collection. The new library opened in 1997 is affectionately referred to as "the jewel in the crown" of the school campus.

Lamothe said she is proud of the partnerships established with the schools and other organizations in the town, citing among them the homework center for teenage patrons.

Another innovation, the cafe formerly operated in the library basement by French Memories, is expected to reopen in the next few months once another private vendor is secured.

Said Lamothe, "I think the library has truly become a community center used by all ages seven days a week. This is no longer the sleepy little library of 30 years ago. Circulation has more than tripled in the last few years. We now circulate in a day what we used to in a week."

Among the many resources and services available, are over 36 computer stations available for use with courses ongoing for the public.

Lamothe believes her new hiring has a lot to do with Duxbury's high profile library and the solid reputation it has built.

Said Murphy, "Joanne has really made this library, doing a great job with staff, materials and programs. It is truly a monument to her dedication."